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(b) the expenditure incurred by the Government for preservation of that forest; and

(c) whether any portion of that forest can be converted into agricultural lands?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (a) There is no forest by name Thumbalam Reserve Forest in Musiri taluk. The name of the forest near Thumbalam village is Mavilipatti forest. Annual income derived from this forest is Rs. 540 approximately.

" (b) Rs. 786 on the protective staff of one forest guard and one watcher.

" (c) No, Sir."

SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—" In view of the increasing population will the Government allow people who have deserted their old dwellings in the forest to go and occupy those old places, Sir? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" Each individual case will have to be treated separately."

Government Coir Factory, Beypore.

* 269 Q.—DR. K. B. MENON : Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Welfare be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was any misappropriation in the Government Coir Factory in Beypore, Malabar;

(b) if there was, what was the amount misappropriated and by whom; and

(c) what steps the Government have taken in the matter?

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" (a), (b) & (c) There was no misappropriation. But certain irregularities in procedure due to the gross negligence and mismanagement of the Coir Factory by the Superintendent, involving the Government in a loss of about Rs. 16,161 came to light. The Superintendent has been kept under suspension. The question of recovering the loss from him and also of taking disciplinary action against him is engaging the attention of the Government."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" How did this happen and on what score did it happen, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" The Superintendent of the Government Coir Factory in Beypore is Syed Muhammad. During a surprise inspection of the factory by the Joint Director of Industries and Commerce in 1949, several irregularities were noticed in the accounts of the factory. Charges were framed against him for the irregularities, his explanation was obtained, and he was warned by the Director of Industries and Commerce

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then. Even after this the Superintendent did not rectify the defects, and committed several irregularities such as delivery of goods before realising the value, credit sales without authority, sale of goods at prices less than the book value, delay in the revision of prices, etc. All these have resulted in the loss mentioned above."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—" Sir, what is the period of time covered by the misappropriation and irregularities, and was there no periodical inspection by superior officers? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :— " It is only by a check that they have found out that there have been irregularities."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Will the Hon. Minister explain why he makes an invidious distinction between the words 'misappropriation' and 'irregularities' resulting in loss to Government to the extent of Rs. 16,000 odd? Is not the latter also misappropriation? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :— " I am very sorry that the hon. Member wants me to explain the words 'misappropriation' and 'mismanagement'. Misappropriation means the money should have been used by him. The money that he has realised by sales should have been used by him for his personal use. Actually here he did not make use of that money. But there were lapses due to negligence as a result of which the money due to the State Government was not realised."

SRI V. V. RAMASAMI :—" Sir, this was found out in 1949. Why was that officer allowed to stay on and commit further irregularities instead of being sent away to some other post? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :— " He was warned some time ago in 1949, and was given a chance to rectify himself. But he did not rectify himself and repeated the same irregularities that he had been committing previously. Hence he has been placed under suspension from 15th May 1952. Suitable action has been taken subsequently."

SRI K. VARADACHARI :—" May I ask, Sir, if there is any arrangement for auditing these accounts by the commercial tax officers? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" I am very sorry the hon. Member is making a big mistake. This matter does not come under the control of the Commercial Tax Department at all."

SRI A. APPU :—" Sir, who investigated the case, and was it investigated because of a complaint filed with the police alleging that this man had been selling coir and misappropriating the money to himself, and that he was replenishing the stock from private persons when there were any inspections? "

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THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" The investigation has been made by the Departmental Head, namely, the Director of Industries and Commerce, and his staff."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" In view of the fact that the irregularities were found out in 1949 and the suspension was ordered in 1952, was not scope given to the Superintendent to cover up his irregularities? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" I am sorry that the hon. Member did not properly hear my previous reply. In 1949 when irregularities were noticed, he was warned. He was given a chance to improve himself. But unfortunately he did not rectify himself, and so, he was placed under suspension in May 1952."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" Sir, when the goods were sold for less than the book value, was it due to the negligence of the Superintendent or was it with the intention to misappropriate? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" It has been verified and found out that he had no intention to misappropriate. Probably there were other reasons like cheap popularity, etc., as the hon. Member knows."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—" I have already put the question, and I repeat it now. What is the period covered by this mismanagement or irregularity? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" The mismanagement was first noticed in 1949. As I have said already, he was warned. Subsequently he has been committing the same mistake, and therefore, he was placed under suspension."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" This is a matter of great importance. Between 1949 and 1952 it is three years, and yet the Government seem to be measuring the delay in terms of intentions and non-intentions. Will the Government take up this matter seriously and see that such things do not occur in future? Unless serious action is taken now, are not the Government aware that such things will take place again and again in many Government departments? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" I may remind the hon. Member that this Government was sworn in on 10th April 1952. Action was taken against this Superintendent in May 1952. From this he can measure how strict this Government are in managing their affairs, and how carefully this Government have examined this question and what conclusions they have come to in a short time."

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DR. K. B. MENON :—" Have the Government realised that the sense of the House is that the Government were not strict enough in dealing with officers who had been found to be irregular, and will the Government remember that and be strict in future? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" I may assure my hon. Friend that, as I have already said, this Government are very strict, particularly when lapses of this sort or other serious irregularities are noticed, and they are dealing with them as strictly and strongly as possible."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Was there any allegation against this officer that he received illegal gratification for committing this irregularity? " 9 a.m.

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" It has not come to my notice, Sir."

Remission of rent in Malabar.

* 271 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation that the existing provision in the Malabar Tenancy Act relating to remission of rent is inadequate to give relief to the tenants whose crops have been destroyed by general drought this year; and

(*b*) whether the Government propose to undertake any steps to allow remission of rent in cases of failure of crops due to natural calamities beyond the control of the tenants?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) No.

" (*b*) When there is failure of crops, the Revenue Officers will grant remission of assessment in deserving cases after azmoish. Under section 29-B of the Malabar Tenancy Act, whenever for any reason the whole or any part of the assessment payable in respect of any land for any period is remitted by the State Government, the landlord shall be bound to remit the whole or a proportionate part of the rent due to him from his tenant in respect of that land for that period. No separate action by the Government is therefore necessary for the remission of rent."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Section 29 of the Malabar Tenancy Act allows only abatement of rent in cases where revenue is remitted and it is known that, under the Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue, no revenue is remitted in cases of double crop lands where the second crop or one of the crops fails. Therefore, will the Government introduce legislation for the relief of the tenants in cases where one crop fails though no revenue is remitted? "